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VOL. X.—No. 70.

NEW YORK, JUNE, 1891.

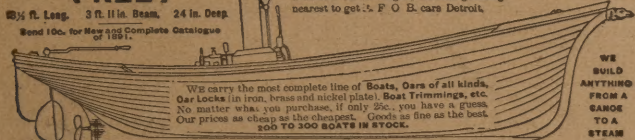
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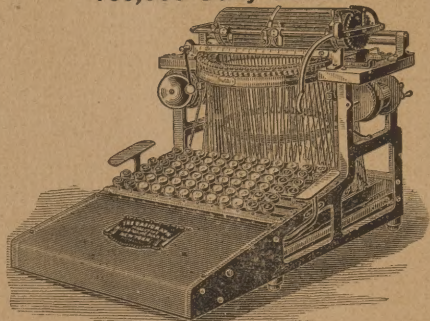
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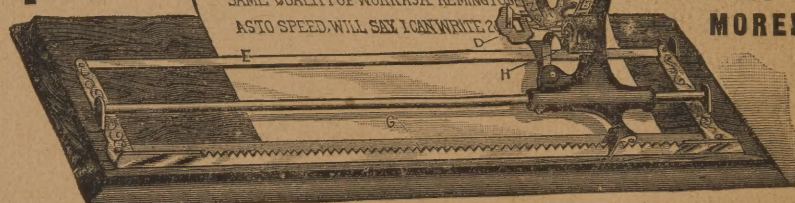
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No. 70.

EDITH O' BARKINS.

E. D. P.

EDITH—

By that name, and that only, was she known, but her coming to Barkins' Gulch was like the ray of home light to the weary traveller. She seemed to have fallen like a star from the midnight sky to cheer the rough miners who delved for precious ore on the adjoining mountain's side.

Who she was, no one living at the gulch could tell. All that was known of her, was, that she was found one cold winter night by old Josh Barkins, near his cabin on Black Mountain, warmly wrapped in blankets.

That was many years ago, and at the time there was quite a "settlement" at Barkins' Gulch, as the place was called, and it was here that little Edith found a home when cruelly abandoned to die.

This settlement, or miners' camp, was frequently resorted to by travellers overtaken by night, or for shelter from sudden storms which are so frequent in the mountains, and from rough but honest old Barkins all received a cordial welcome.

That whoever placed the precious burden at Barkins' door, did so with intent to abandon it, was not doubted, as a strict search was made for miles around the settlements, the following morning for strangers who might be suspected of committing the cruel deed, and dire were the threats of the sturdy miners, against the culprit, should he be found. The search was, of course, unsuccessful and the occurrence was for a long time the talk of the miners.

However it might have been, it fell to the lot of Barkins to find the precious nugget, and as he removed the wraps, the tiny stranger opened its big round eyes and murmured "pa-pa". The sight went straight to his rough heart and lifting the bundle tenderly he strode into the cabin where his wife was sitting and gently laid the baby, blankets and all in Mother Barkins' lap. She was a kind motherly soul and as she listened to the story of its finding her thoughts wandered back to that other home in the far east, where in one of God's acres four tiny mounds told of the heaviness of the chastening rod.

The little waif was kindly cared for by Barkins' wife, who at once became deeply attached to it, and the babe with its bright, winning ways soon endeared itself to all in the camp.

It was thought probable that the little one was about a year old at the time it was deserted as it had already commenced its childish prattle, and the day upon which it was found was called the first anniversary of its birth. This bit

of pink and white femininity was named Edith. Not Edith Barkins, nor Edith something else; simply Edith. But by the miners in this and other camps, to which latter the story of her coming had spread, she was known as "Edith o' Barkins."

As she grew in stature and mental ability she evinced a studious turn of mind which those who were blessed with an education endeavored to cultivate, although the methods adopted were somewhat crude. Mrs. Barkins devoted no small amount of time to her instruction, that little Edith, who as she advanced in years displayed a refinement of manner which only comes from innate nobility of character and which proved beyond doubt the superiority of her parentage, might not grow up in ignorance.

Occasionally strangers, stopping at the camp, becoming

interested in the little one, would add something to her store of information, and being bright, and of retentive memory, she would treasure up the golden grains that she thus gained from far off lands, and although many miles remote from the advantages which civilization afforded, she was, at ten years of age, far in advance of children of her age who had access to books and customs less crude than those which she possessed.

At this period in her life she experienced her first real sorrow. A change came over Barkins' Gulch. For some time those who had made it their home, one by one had stolen away seeking more fruitful fields, until Mrs. Barkins was the only woman left in the place, and the ninth winter after Edith's advent, she died. Edith was nearly broken-

hearted by the loss of her dearest friend and the pangs of grief were not less acute, when, before spring, Barkins followed his wife to the other land.

The find of gold at this time was continually lessening, and the settlement had dwindled to a dozen men, a striking contrast to the bustling place, which flourished twelve years before when Barkins built the big dam on Black Mountain.

With poverty staring them in the face, and with little Edith to care for a change of location was made to a point some three miles below, where signs of a good lead were discovered, and with traps and luggage they left Barkins' dam, the cabins and all—a prey to the elements.

The question of the disposition of Edith was discussed, some favoring her removal to the states, while others were undecided, and the case having been stated to her she was



allowed to choose for herself. Having always lived among them she choose to remain, but not without considerable questioning among them, but her decision was respected and she remained.

Her loving care as she grew to girlhood was greatly appreciated, she having a faculty of tidying up the cabins, of taking a stitch here and a stitch there, and of performing many little acts of kindness, until she grew to be indispensable.

Three miles below Barkins' Gulch was a natural canyon called "the chasm." In the summer the water would purl along at the bottom of this ravine in musical ripples, but in the early spring its volume would be increased until it would rush in torrents through the narrow pass.

At the head of this canyon the miners established their camp and gold panning out well, they located permanently. A cabin was built for Edith near a tall sycamore tree, and everything done to secure her comfort in this wild country.

At the lower end of the chasm a second dam had been built by the miners, and below this day after day they rocked their sluice pans, built hopes of a lucky future or brooded over their misfortunes.

A short cut to the camp was through the chasm, and just above the brink of the stream the miners had hewn a pathway. In this wierd place, it was Edith's delight in summer to clamber about the rough sides of the rocky gorge, or listen to echoes awakened as masses of loosened rock crashed down its almost perpendicular sides, her merry, childish laughter mingling with the reverberations as they lost themselves far up the mountain side.

One bright morning late in the spring, Edith was sitting at the foot of the sycamore, beneath whose shade she had established her out-door throne. Her eyes were apparently intently fixed upon the kaleidoscopic beauty of the valley which stretched away to the southward, and to an on-looker she would have appeared entranced. While the beauty of the scene appealed to her sense of vision she saw it not. The myriad sounds to which her ear was trained were wafted to her on the soft morning breeze, but another sound was mingled with the sighing of the wind, the music of the birds and the rustling of the leaves. A sound which she knew portended evil.

Deeper, nearer and yet nearer came the sound, the like of which she had never heard, yet well she knew its meaning. Listening intently she heard the far-off rumbling. A thrill of fear crept over her, but shaking it off she sprang forward to the edge of the rocky gorge to make sure her fears were not groundless.

She had heard aright. Far up the ravine she could now distinctly hear the roaring and booming as of distant artillery. Then she understood, and clasping her hands in her agony of heart she exclaimed:

"Oh God! the dam at Barkins' Gulch has given away—and the men are below the dam in the chasm."

At once realizing the necessity of immediate action if she would save them, away she bounded down the steep pathway leading along the side of the ravine.

"To go over the hill will take an hour," she thought, "and I must reach them through the chasm. If I do not nothing can save them. They cannot hear the flood until it is upon them, because the water is still flowing over the lower dam," and while thus defining the situation to herself she sped down the rocky, uneven trail.

On and on she went, but louder and louder grew the roaring and crashing behind her. Love lent her speed and her feet scarcely seemed to touch the sharp rocks as she flew along. The ominous sound grew nearer, echoing down the ravine through which she sped, but thinking only of the peril which threatened those she loved, it brought to her no fear that she too might be buried beneath the resistless mass ere her mission was accomplished.

She reached the edge of the lower dam, a winner by only a few hundred yards in this unequal race, and turning saw the mountain of yellow water rushing into the narrow defile. The awfulness of the scene transfixed her for an instant, but for an instant only, and leaning far over the brink she uttered one long despairing shriek. It was sufficient. The attention of the men below was attracted by that sharp cry, and looking up they saw her standing on the edge of the dam, pointing with one hand to the fierce

billow far up the cliff and with the other motioning them to flee for their lives. Her warning was instantly comprehended and up the narrow paths they sprang, reaching a place of safety not an instant too soon. But Edith—she had not until then realized her perilous position. She was facing death. Either she was powerless, from over exertion, to save herself, or was awe-stricken at the sublime spectacle of the mighty oncoming torrent.

Those rugged miners realized her danger and sprang to save her, but it was not to be. Down came the mighty surge and catching her in its merciless grasp, whirled her over and over, now above and now below the mad waters.

In an instant it was over and the rush of waters spreading on the vast plain, the unconscious and bleeding form of Edith was soon found far below lodged on a slight elevation. Carefully she was placed on the sweet spring grass. Tenderly her hands and brow were chafed by those rough pioneers who gathered about that inanimate form to catch the first ray of returning life to those glassy eyes. Anxious hearts beat in unison for the loved one who had periled her life for theirs, and in their glance there was a look of wonder as if each soul was asking "Has our pearl gone from us forever?"

A livid, ragged line burned upon her forehead in maddening contrast to the pale face upturned to the sky. It was a moment of agonizing suspense which seemed hours to the anxious watchers, but a sigh of relief escaped from their honest hearts, when they knew that death had not claimed her for its own. She lived. Her breath came in faltering gasps, but it told that she was spared to them.

Up the mountain side she was tenderly borne, and placed in her cabin home. For days she lay in a semi-stupor; at times appearing stronger and more cheerful, at others weaker and nearer the great white throne.

A gloom settled upon them all as she failed to gain her wonted strength and cheerfulness. Weak and uncomplaining she lay upon her couch, and as one by one the men would enter she would smile faintly, raise her hand feebly and thus endeavor to detract their mind from a day which she knew must soon dawn when she would be at rest.

As she grew weaker, she asked that she might be taken to her favorite tree and once more see the sun set over the beautiful valley. Her request was granted and daily she was borne to the loved spot.

It was one of these bright afternoons in which she had appeared the most cheerful, that she lay gazing at the ever varying cloud wreaths far above her. She had chatted merrily with the men, and partially raising herself she felt, in the glorious balmy air, a renewed life.

A smile of happy contentment lighted those waxen features, as with lips apart she drank in nature's healing draught. Suddenly sinking upon her couch she called to those about her and said:

"The end is near, I cannot deceive you longer. I am going, going, O so far away. You have been very kind to me, and I tried so hard to save you. Will you kiss me? My strength is going fast. I am—almost—home."

Silently and with heavy hearts they kissed that snow-white forehead marred only by the dark line where the cruel timber had left its death mark.

Mutely and grief-stricken they stood beside her, while she lay with her eyes fixed upon the setting sun, as it shot its beams up and across the mountains of snowy clouds, tinting their edges with a golden sheen.

Suddenly a ray of light shot athwart the heavens and the clouds seemed parting as if the angel band was sweeping from the golden gates to bear her spirit home.

Half rising from her recumbent position she faintly exclaimed: "There they are; hear them singing those glorious songs. Good-bye—for me they are coming—I!" and with her arms outstretched, and a smile of perfect peace on her face, Edith crossed the river, borne by the angels to the throne of heaven.

They buried her beneath the sycamore and from among the boulders which lined the mountain-side, the selected one of snowy whiteness, and placing it near her grave, upon its face which each day reflected the refulgent berms of the setting sun, they rudely carved:

EDITH, AGED FIFTEEN.

SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF VETERANS DEPARTMENT.

This department is devoted to the interests and welfare of the Sons of Veterans and Ladies' Aid Societies of the United States of America.
 Edited by Edgar D. Melville, (of Camp 239, Penna. Div., S. V., U. S. A.,) 925 Up-land Street, Chester, Pa., to whom all communications relating to this department should be sent.

ONE representative is wanted in each Camp. Those who desire to act as such are requested to write at once to the Editor of this department, who is also the general State-agent for Pennsylvania, and obtain particulars regarding the matter.

History of Elias B. Eckfeldt Camp, No. 239, Sons of Veterans, Division of Penna.

During the Spring of '89 Brother Charles A. Quinby came to Chester from Media to engage in the undertaking business. He was not in Chester long, however, before he conceived the plan of organizing a Camp of Sons of Veterans in this city, knowing that a large field presented itself, that would, with proper attention form the firm foundation of a thriving organization.

In company with the writer of this article he worked diligently nearly every evening for two weeks in search of recruits.

Having secured quite a number of names, we finally arranged to hold a meeting at Mr. Quinby's office on a certain date, but when the appointed time arrived, out of nearly thirty who had promised to be present to sign their names to the charter blank, only six materialized.

Nothing daunted, however, we held about a dozen meetings at Mr. Quinby's office.

In due time prospects brightened considerably. Wilde Post, No. 25, G. A. R. kindly allowed us the use of their magnificent room to meet in, until a Camp was organized.

We finally secured the proper number of recruits to enable us to procure a charter.

We were mustered in, sixteen in number, on the evening of May 29th, 1889, in Luken's Hall, by Past Captain Wm. L. Mathues, assisted by his efficient staff, of Captain Isaac Johnson Camp, No. 18, of Media, Del. Co., Pa.

After the installation a Camp-fire was held. Some of the most prominent comrades of the G. A. R. were present and delivered very interesting and instructive remarks.

Charles A. Quinby was elected Captain, and served to January 1st, 1890.

Elias B. Eckfeldt Camp is named in honor of the son of the late Adam C. Eckfeldt. He was killed in the first battle he fought in.

Not long after the organization of the Camp we received a very beautiful banner from Mr. Eckfeldt as a mark of esteem in the action we had taken in naming the Camp in honor of his son.

On Wednesday evening, October 30th, 1889, we won a handsome silken flag with all the necessary casing and attachments complete, by taking a larger number of men than any other society to the Knights of the Golden Eagle's fair. We managed to take to the fair 269 men.

The Patriotic Order Sons of America, of this city, which in comparison with our Camp is a very strong organization, and who also entered the competition, only took to the fair 174 men.

As you may well imagine we felt very jubilant over our success.

Captain John L. Van Tine certainly deserves much credit for the active part he performed in the affair. It was mainly through his efforts that the flag was won.

On Friday evening, November 8th, after the adjournment of the Camp we repaired to Wilde Post room where the flag was presented to us, on behalf of the Knights of the Golden Eagle by Dr. J. L. Forwood, who delivered a very appropriate speech. It was received on behalf of the camp by Comrade Thomas Chambers, who by the way is one of our Camp's staunchest friends.

Comrade Wm. G. Davidson, on behalf of the Ladies' Auxiliary Corps then presented us with a handsome Bible. It was received on behalf of the Camp by Comrade Chas. K. Melville.

Camp 239, I am glad to say is on the fair road to success. The official list at present is as follows;

Captain, John L. Van Tine. First Lieutenant, Samuel T. Wheatley. Second Lieutenant, Moses Hewitt. Camp Council, Harry Culbert, Wm G. Taylor, and Edgar D. Melville. Chaplain Edgar D. Melville. First Sergeant, Alonza Swan. Quarter-Master Sergeant, Geo. Todd, Sergeant of the Guard, Harry Culbert. Color Sergeant, Leonard Wheatly. Principal Musician, Thomas W. Burt. Corporal of the Guard, George L. Arthur. Camp Guard, Charles H. Mofitt. Picket Guard, Louis H. Eaves. E. D. M.

BUGLE NOTES.

Senior A. D. C. Edwin N. Tuckerman of Delaware County, Pa., inspected Captain Isaac Johnson Camp, No. 18, of Media, on Tuesday evening, April 28th. They received an average of 98, which is a mark to be proud of.

General E. D. Baker Camp, No. 277, can now boast of a Ladies' Auxiliary corps. Mrs. Mary Wenrick, who has taken much interest in effecting the formation of the corps, is well known to Grand Army and Sons of Veteran circles.

Ladies' Aid Society, No. 26, of Elias B. Eckfeldt Camp, No. 239, Chester, Pa., which has only been organized a short time, is in a flourishing condition, and bids fair to become one of the strongest societies in the Division.

Elias Eckfeldt Camp, No. 239, was inspected on the evening of April 24th, by Senior A. D. C. Edwin N. Tuckerman. While this was being done the Ladies' Aid Society connected with Camp 239 were preparing a surprise for the boys, and sent them an invitation to come to Edgmont Hall. After the business of the Camp had been completed the members responded to the call, and, with several visitors from other Camps, and comrades of Wilde Post, marched in a body to Edgmont Hall. Here it was found that the ladies had provided a feast of good things, and twenty-five of the fair sex served the visitors until all the delicacies had disappeared. Then a social meeting was organized with Captain John L. Van Tine as Chairman. Speeches were delivered by Past Captain William L. Mathues, of Camp 18, of Media; Lieut. Elwood Carr, of Camp 245, of Bryn Mawr; Captain Robinson, of John Brown Post and Comrades Wheatley, Guthrie, and Deamer, of Wilde Post. Senior A. D. C. Edwin N. Tuckerman, sang "The Twins," and Mrs. Sarah J. Van Tine, President of Society 26, made a few remarks relative to the good of the order.

At the eleventh annual encampment of the Pennsylvania Division, Sons of Veterans, which convened at Du Bois, Clearfield County, on May 6th and 7th, Lieutenant Colonel H. M. Rebele, of Allegheny, was elected Colonel for the ensuing year to succeed Colonel George W. Gerhard, and Easton was selected as the place for holding the next annual encampment.

ADDRESS WANTED.

The present address of John P. Shaw, late a member of Company D, One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, is wanted. Any information about the above named soldier would be thankfully received if sent to R. E. Shaw, 220 West Ninth Street, Newton, Kansas. All papers friendly to the ex-Union soldiers and their families please publish.

THE OLDEST MEMBER GONE.

Colonel Bixby, of Vermont, in order No. 5 says: It is with sorrow that we announce the death of Brother William Lamb, of Camp No. 57, Poultney, the oldest member of the Order. Although he was a member of the Grand Army and other organizations, yet he always took much interest in the S. V. and was a regular attendant at the camp meetings. He was over seventy years of age.

A SPECIAL state representative is desired in every State in the Union. For particulars address the publishers, PLAIN TALK Publishing Co., 5 Beekman St., New York.

I HAVE made a good exchange of "The Beautiful Story" advertised in a recent issue of PLAIN TALK, and I think it is "A 1" for those who have anything to sell or exchange.—L. A. LIVINGSTON.

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

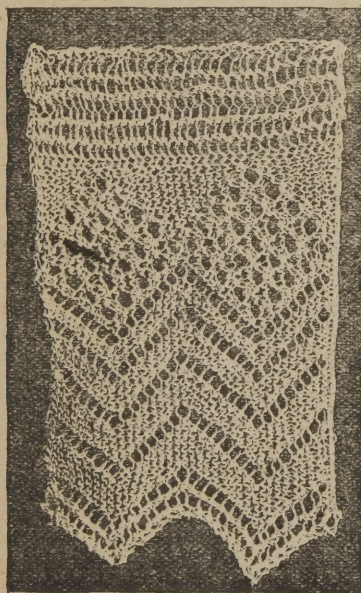
EDITED BY

MRS. N. F. PERKINS, OCEANUS, N. Y.

Fancy work.

WIDE OPEN LACE.

CAST on fifty stitches and knit across plain. First row, sl. one, k. one, over twice, s. two together, k. two, over, n., over twice, s. two together, k. nine, n., over twice, n., k. one, over, n., k. two, over, n., k. three, over, n., k. four, over, n., k. five, over, n., over, k. two. Second row, sl. one, k. twenty-nine, s. one, k. ten, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. twice, s. two together, k. two. Third row, sl. one, k. one, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., narrow, o. twice, s. two together, k. fifteen, over, n. k. two, o., n., k. three, o., n., k. four, o., n., k. five, o., n., o., k. two. Fourth row, sl. one, k. forty-one, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. twice, s. two together, k. two. Fifth row, sl. one, k. one, o., twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. twice, s. two together, k. seven, n., o. twice, n., n., o. twice, n., k. one, o., n., k. two, o., n., k. three, o., n., k. four, o., n., k. five, o., n., o., k. two. Sixth row, sl. one, k. twenty-nine, s. one, k. three, s. one, k. eight, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. twice, s. two together, k. two. Seventh row, sl. one, k. one, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. twice, s. two together, k. seven, o., n., k. two, o., n., k. three, o., n., k. four, over, n., k. five, o., n., o., k. two. Eighth row, sl. one, k. forty-three, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o., twice, s. two together, k. two. Ninth row, sl. one, k. one, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. twice, s. two together, knit five, n.,



o. twice, n., n., o. twice, n., n., o. twice, n. k. one, o., n., k. two, o., n., k. three, o., n., k. four, o., n., k. five, o., n., o., k. two. Tenth row, sl. one, k. twenty-nine, s. one, k. three, s. one, k. three, s. one, k. six, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o., twice, s. two together, k. two. Eleventh row, sl. one, k. one, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. twice, s. two together, k. nineteen, o., n., k. two, o., n., k. three, o., n., k. four, o., n., k. five, o., n., o., k. two. Twelfth row, sl. one, k. forty-five, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, over, n., o. twice, s. two together, k. two. Thirteenth row, sl. one, k. one, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. twice, s. two together, k. twenty-one, o., n., k. two, o., n., k. three, o., n., k. four, o., n., k. five, o., n., o., k. two. Sixteenth row, sl. one, k. forty-seven, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. twice, s. two together, k. two. Seventeenth row, sl. one, k. one, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. twice, s. two together, k. one, n., o. two, n., n. four times, o. two, n., k. one, o., n., k. two, o., n., k. three, o., n., k. four, o., n., k. five, o., n., k. two. Eighteenth row, sl. one, k. twenty-nine, s. one, k. three four times, s. one, k. two, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. twice, s. two together, k. two. Nineteenth row, sl. one, k. one, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. twice, s. two together, k. forty-nine. Twentieth row, sl. one, n., o., n. twice, k. five, o., n., k. four, o., n., k. three, o.,

n., k. two, o., n., n., k. eighteen, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. twice, s. two together, k. two. Twenty-first row, sl. one, k. one, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. twice, s. together, k. three, n., o. two, n., n. three times, o., two, k. twenty-eight. Twenty second row, sl. one, n., o., n. twice, k. five, o., n., k. four, o., n., k. three, o., n., k. two, o., n., k. one, s. one, k. three, s. one, three times, k. four, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. twice, s. two together, k. two. Twenty-third row, sl. one, k. one, o. two, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. two, s. two together, k. forty-six. Twenty-fourth row, sl. one, n., o., n. twice, k. five, o., n., k. four, o., n., k. three, o., n., k. two, o., n., k. seventeen, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. twice, s. two together, k. two. Twenty-fifth row, sl. one, k. one, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. twice, s. two together, k. five, n., o. two, n., n. twice, o. two, n. k. twenty-eight. Twenty-sixth row, sl. one, n., o., n. twice, k. five, o., n., k. four, o., n., k. three, o., n., k. two, o., n., k. one, s. one, k. three twice, s. one, k. six, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. twice, s. two together, k. two. Twenty-seventh row, sl. one, k. one, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. twice, s. two together, k. forty-four. Twenty-eighth row, sl. one, n. o., n. twice, k. five, o., n., k. four, o., n., k. three, o., n., k. two, o., n., k. fifteen, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. twice, s. two together, k. two. Twenty-ninth row, sl. one, k. one, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. twice, s. two together, k. seven, n., o. two, n., n., o. two, n., k. twenty-eight. Thirtieth row, sl. one, n. o., n. twice, k. five, o., n., k. four, o., n., k. three, o., n., k. two, o., n., k. one, s. one, k. three, s. one, k. eight, o. two, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. twice, s. two together, k. two. Thirty-first row, sl. one, k. one, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. twice, s. two together, k. two. Thirty-second row, sl. one, n., o., n. twice, k. five, o., n., k. four, o., n., k. three, o., n., k. two, o., n., k. thirteen, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. twice, s. two together, k. two. Thirty-third row, sl. one, k. one, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. twice, s. two together, k. nine, n., o. two, n., k. twenty-eight. Thirty-fourth row, sl. one, n., o., n. twice, k. five, o., n., k. four, o., n., k. three, o., n., k. two, o., n., k. one, s. one, k. ten, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. twice, s. two together, k. two. Thirty-fifth row, sl. one, k. one, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. twice, s. two together, k. forty. Thirty-sixth row, sl. one, k. thirty-nine, o. twice, s. two together, k. two, o., n., o. twice, s. two together, k. two, repeat from first.



SHOE BUTTON CASE.

TAKE two pieces of heavy white drawing paper, diamond shape fifteen inches long and nine inches wide, and paste same together, rolling over top and bottom points, the top point to be used for spool which is held in place by a piece of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch ribbon $\frac{3}{4}$ yd. long passed through the spool and top of paper forming a loop for hanger, the bottom to be used for buttons. Take a piece of surah and form same in bottom point to make bag. Flat diamond shape pin cushion $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches long and two inches wide are covered with plush and pasted each; side paint spray of daisies between cushions.

Our Cook Book.

WILL not each reader of PLAIN TALK send on her best recipe?

NUT CAKE.

One cup butter, two cups sugar, one cup milk, three scant cups of flour, two teaspoons baking powder, vanilla flavoring. One pound English Walnuts chopped fine. Reserve sixteen whole meats to be placed on top of cake before icing is dried. SIBEL COBB.

JAMBULAYA. (Creole Dish).

Stew your chicken, rabbit, squirrel, birds, mutton or ham, (or either of the former with some of the latter) with onions, lard or fat ham, parsley or celery, black and red pepper and salt, until nearly done, then add four cups of water and two cups well washed rice. Stir twice before grains begin to soften. Never stir rice under other circumstances. MRS. E. E. INSLEE.

FILLING FOR ONE LEMON PIE.

One egg, juice and rind of one large or two small lemons, one cup boiling water, one cup sugar, one teaspoon butter, one tablespoon cornstarch. Boil all together for a few minutes before pouring it into crust. ELLA AND JULIA.

ENGLISH STRAWBERRY SHORT CAKE.

Take a coffee-cup of cream or sour milk, beat into it a little salt and a small teaspoonful of soda, and before it stops foaming stir on enough flour to enable you to roll out, do not get it too stiff. Roll into three circles. Spread butter on top of each, and place one on top of the other. Bake till well done. Next pull the three layers apart, butter one and cover with strawberries, butter second, and over the first, cover with strawberries, add third crust. Set in oven a few minutes. Pile on top more strawberries. Sprinkle powdered sugar on top. Serve hot. ENGLISH GIRL.

STRAWBERRY SHORT CAKE.

Mix two teaspoonfuls of Royal Baking Powder into two cups of flour, add one saltspoonful of salt, four tablespoonfuls of white sugar, two eggs well beaten, two tablespoonfuls of butter, and one-half cup of milk. Bake in two jelly cake tins. Lay between the cakes washed strawberries. Pile whole strawberries on top. Sift powdered sugar over the top and pour whipped cream over all. MAUD LOGAN.

ASPARAGUS WITH CREAM.

Wash, and plunge into boiling water, in which there is a teaspoonful of salt for quart of water. Boil fifteen minutes; drain off water. Cut off the tender heads, return to saucepan with one generous cup of cream to every quart of asparagus; simmer ten minutes. Add one tablespoonful of butter mixed well with a teaspoonful of flour. Add salt and pepper to taste, and simmer five minutes longer.

CHEESE OMELET.

Butter the sides of a deep dish and cover with thin slices of cheese. Lay over cheese thin slices of buttered bread; another layer of cheese. Beat two eggs into one cup of cream and pour over, and bake till of a brown. To be eaten hot.

ASPARAGUS AND EGGS.

First make the drawn butter by putting half cup of boiling water in a saucepan and stirring into it a tablespoonful of butter mixed well with a teaspoonful of flour. Cook till smooth and thick. Add a cup of cold boiled asparagus chopped fine; mix well. Pour into a buttered earthen baking dish, set in a hot oven; cover. When bubbling hot add four eggs beaten light, two tablespoonfuls of cream, pepper

and salt to taste. Bake five minutes, and eat as soon as it is removed from oven.

BUTTER CUPS.

Boil hard twelve fresh eggs. Peel, cut in half and remove the yolks. Cut off the tip of each piece. Place in a baking dish. Rub the yolks smooth with one heaping tablespoonful of butter, teaspoonful of mustard, salt, pepper, teacupful each of finely minced cold fowl and cooked ham, two tablespoonfuls of bread crumbs, gravy to moisten it. Mix thoroughly, roll into balls size of egg yolk, and put one in each half of egg. Pour over the whole a teacup of chicken gravy, put bits of butter in, and sprinkle lightly with cracker dust. Bake in hot oven fifteen minutes.

CHEESE CRUSTS.

Cut stale bread two inches square, and half inch thick. Butter and lay them on a baking-pan, put one tablespoonful of grated cheese on each, and brown them in a quick oven. Serve hot.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The readers of PLAIN TALK are invited to write letters, ask questions of general interest on fancy work or housekeeping. Send directions of lace and fancy work.

APROPOS TO MARGARETHE'S TIMELY DISSERTATION ON SLANG.

I WANT to give, what now seems to me, a ludicrous incident, but which seemed at the time, anything else. I had brought up my daughter to the age of fifteen, perfectly free from slang, and then I sent her to a female college where the refining influences are of the best. Not long after leaving me, she was, I think guilty of some animadversions concerning the teachers, for which I reproved her, and Miss Malapert's answer was, "I am not a fool if I do have fits." I wrote a hasty and anxious letter to inquire about the fits she had been having, and cried and cried for nearly two weeks; while I waited an answer. When it came it began thus: "You poor dear little mother; did you think your 'Baby' had been having fits; that was only a bit of slang," and went on expressing penitence, etc. Moral.—when you are off at boarding-school, don't write slang to your poor unsophisticated little mother. A MOTHER.

DEAR SISTERS ALL: Why do you not try writing letters for PLAIN TALK. The Editor has kindly given us a department and let us try to make it interesting to all. You may expect to hear from me quite often now, as I am home again from a foreign clime, and I hope to find many others each month to welcome me.

Let us see what a sociable time we can have. Spring is really here and you may be sure the craze for silk quilts has somewhat subsided for which we ought to be thankful; so many people ruined their eyes over making crazy quilts. How many of our readers have made quilts of Lonsdale cambric cut in squares, measuring twelve inches? On these are stamped Kate Greenaway figures, etc., and then they are worked in outline stitch with red cotton, join them together with stripes of Turkey red, or plain block of Turkey red same size as outline blocks. This work is very pleasant for the summer time and those who do not wish to make a quilt for themselves, will they not make one block or more for a quilt which we are going to make and sell, using the money for the Shut-ins? Please let us hear from many of the readers of PLAIN TALK. The stamping patterns can be obtained of Henry Mitchell, North Reading, Mass., who will send patterns to select from so you can get just what you want. I have a dozen which I will loan anyone if stamps are sent to pay postage.

Hancock, N. H.

MARY WESTON.

Ladies' Exchange Column.

Exchange notices of not more than forty words inserted free to subscribers only.

Mrs. Susie F. Drew, Salisbury Centre, N. H.—Will send hand-painted plaques for good offers. Write first.

Mrs. J. A. Horner, Hancock, Harrison Co., Ind.—Will exchange nice cabinet specimens for knit or crochet lace.

Mrs. Alice Nottingham, Eastville, Northampton Co., Va.—Will exchange Griffith's Plating Machine and belongings, perfectly new, cost five dollars; for a new nickel Chatelaine watch or offers.

Ellie McVay, Fishhook, Pike Co., Ill.—Has three-hundred Cactus plants and five hundred different kind of choice flower seeds to exchange for best offers.

Mary A. Weston, Amherst, N. H.—Has knit lace, directions for making home-made rugs, etc., for outside wrappers to Dobbins' Electric Soap. Please write, stating number, and enclose stamp for reply.

PHILATELY.

ALVAH DAVISON, - - - - - EDITOR,
176 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

A FINE half tone portrait of Mr. E. F. Gambs appears in the *San Francisco Trade Postal Journal* for April 15th in connection with a sketch on philately.

Mr. T. K. Tapling, the member of Parliament and who recently died, had a stamp collection which is estimated to be worth about one hundred thousand dollars. I believed according to his will the collection has been left to the British Museum, and better still, a sum sufficient has been left to pay for the services of a deputy to care for and show the same to visitors desiring to see it. This is by far the largest collection ever donated to an institution, and the provisions of the will show what an interest Mr. Tapling took in the pursuit.

The J. W. Scott Co. held an auction sale on the evening of the 11th at Bangs' & Co's rooms. There were no rarities among the lots, but the sale netted about one thousand dollars. There were about forty buyers present.

Many members of the American Philatelic Association are agitating the subject of incorporation. This matter has been talked of for some years, and it would appear as if the Association would ultimately adopt it. Mr. A. R. Rogers, the Third Purchasing Agent, has given the subject much thought and his plan is given in the April number of the *American Philatelist*.

The matter of greatest moment among collectors and dealers at present is the subject of the duty on postage stamps. All large dealers and nearly every prominent collector on this side receives consignments of stamps from foreign countries, and the twenty-five per cent duty which is now collected is a bitter pill to swallow. The dealers and collectors are up in arms over the affair, and it is hoped that a satisfactory arrangement can be arrived at, as there can be no doubt whatever, that, as the matter now stands, the collectors must either pay high for the stamps received from the other side, or else not receive any in that way.

Mr. C. H. Mekeel must be given credit for being bold if nothing else. *The Youth's Companion* for May 7th, contains a column and a half advertisement in reading type of his and this I believe cost one thousand dollars. Although its circus poster style is not to be commended, it shows an enterprising spirit on his part, and one which will tell in the long run.

Mr. A. R. Rogers will shortly hold an auction sale of stamps in New York, the sale to be conducted on a plan of his own. The stamps are the property of different parties, and each will be allowed to put a certain limit of price on his specimens. Thus if he says five dollars is the lowest price he will take, the bids will have to reach that sum or the stamp will not be sold. This is all right for the owners of the stamps, but the bidders don't like it, as they will naturally feel that the stamps will either have to bring good prices or they will not be sold, owing to the limit placed upon them. Buyers attend auctions for bargains, and although oftentimes high prices are paid for bargains that causes them to attend. It remains to be seen how this experiment will turn out, but as Mr. Rogers has given it much thought, he no doubt knows his ground.

Stanley Gibbons' *Monthly Journal* is running an illustrated article on the Mulready envelopes, its imitations, etc. The same article is being reprinted in the *Quaker City Philatelist*. These may be interesting to look at, but I cannot see what connection they have to philately. The *Monthly Journal* is a fine paper and contains about forty pages.

The April number of the *Eastern Philatelist* contains an excellent report of part I of the J. R. Hooper sale of stamps, including the names of many of the buyers. Mr. Corwin evidently was "in it."

The *Southern Philatelist* from Charleston, S. C. is holding up the honor of the South in the philatelic line. There are not as many collectors below the line as we could wish, but the *S. P.* is doing its best to keep the interest up, and if

they can hold on long enough which they give every evidence of doing, the stamp fever may break out again down there and then our friends will reap the harvest.

There has never been very much warmth shown about stamp matters in Canada, and the collectors and dealers I fear don't support their papers very liberally. The *Maritime Philatelist* offers advertising at your own price, and such a plaintive cry as this should touch the heart of the most hardened.

One often hears or reads of certain collectors having four or five thousand or more varieties of stamps and yet that they are totally or partly unarranged, or in their own language in a chaotic state. This is but one of the many instances showing what a strong hold philately has on its votaries. They are busy night and day, have no time to arrange their collections, and yet they go right on buying with the same keen relish for it as if they were buying stocks which they knew would jump within a few days. I have seen a number of collectors who possessed excellent collections, and yet they could not tell what they had owing to part being mounted, a big part being in envelopes, and another portion being found in their pockets. From this I have come to the conclusion that although there is great pleasure in looking over your collection when well mounted and arranged, yet the greatest pleasure to the collector, and the one which holds him more than anything else is the simple getting of them; the feeling of possession that warms his soul as another specimen takes its place among the hosts of others.

The Staten Island Philatelic society have under consideration the forming of a company for guaranteeing the genuineness of rare stamps. Their plan is to record each stamp and give the owner a certificate. The plan in many of its features is similar to that originated by the Brooklyn Club, only the Staten Island plan guarantees and insures the stamps for certain amounts. The Brooklyn plan of photographing each specimen is I think far superior to any written descriptions, as the photograph shows clearly the cancellation and the minutest feature of the stamp, a thing that could not be approached by a written description. The company proposed would be a good thing and it remains to be seen if the necessary capital can be had for such an undertaking.

A Backward Glance.

A NEW stamp paper is announced to appear from Nashville, Tenn., the 15th of May by Clements Bros. Stamp papers have never seemed to thrive in the South, and although many have started in that locality, they have always been short lived. Charleston, S. C., at one time was very active in philatelic matters, and I believe several papers were issued from that city at one time, but the wave passed over as it has in hundreds of other places, while the names of those who have been intimately and prominently connected with the pursuit are seen no more, and in the majority of cases are forgotten.

Some of the organizers and hardest workers in establishing the now flourishing American Philatelic Association were southern collectors, but most of them have dropped out, and only those who followed closely the early fortunes of that association would recollect the names.

I need but to take a stamp paper of three or four years ago and I find many advertisements of southern dealers, but where are they now! Like the ever-shifting scenery of this world, they have played their part and retired to give place to others. Thus philately ever seems to shift, its waves now striking this place and then that, and yet with all its variations, its moving about, the ups and downs of its votaries, it still continues to grow. It has left no ruins in its path, no sorrowing thoughts of what might have been, no unfulfilled promises, but a green spot in the memory that can always be looked back to as a time fruitful of many pleasures.

AS for your paper as an advertising medium, it cannot be excelled by any other paper I have advertised in, not even *Harpers' Young People*. "It takes the cake."—JUDSON N. BURTON, Stamp Dealer, Madison N. Y.



THE HALL TYPEWRITER.

GAMES AND PASTIMES.

Contributions for this department are solicited in regard to every variety of indoor and outdoor amusement.

The Word Hunt.

A GAIN the young ladies step to the front and capture the prizes, Mr. Falkner being gallant enough to remain out this month. A new contestant develops in this contest, in the person of Miss Æ. Ida Frizzell. She lives away out West, but she has been heard from. This is not her first attempt, but she has at last been successful. The lists on an average sent in by the young ladies, rank higher in every respect than those sent in by others. There seems to be a pride taken in preparing a neat list, and if the boys would take this home to themselves, and improve on their lists, it would prove beneficial in many ways.

With the word "Edingcator" as the base the prizes are awarded as follow :

First prize to Miss Emma L. Hauck, White Plains, N. Y., 663 correct words ; original list, 709.

Second prize to Miss Anna Blackie, Besemer, N. Y., 659 correct words ; original list, 679.

Third prize to Miss Ida Frizzell, Eau Clair, Wis., 656 correct words ; original list, 675.

Mrs. McClelland's list contained 652 correct words ; Albert Pennell's, 651 and Sarah Hrbek's 647.

How many are in for the typewriter ? It is the chance of a life-time. As there is no contest pending which closes in June it gives all a long time to study the dictionary. Don't be afraid to try, even if you do not win. It will give you practice to compete for some other of the big prizes, that will be offered during the year.

The Next Contest.

EVERY reader of PLAIN TALK should take part in the next contest. The first prize is the beautiful and valuable typewriter shown in the above cut. It is a "Hall," and of it W. D. Howells, the eminent novelist says : "I wish to express my very great satisfaction with the Hall typewriter. Impression and alignment are both more perfect than in any other typewriter that I know, and it is simply a pleasure to use it. It is delightfully simple and manageable." Celia Thaxter, the poetess, writes : "I find the Hall typewriter excellent ; light, easily worked, requiring much less exertion than any other. The liability to mistakes is also less. It is a great advantage to have so compact a keyboard, and to print directly from the type. I have used other typewriters, and do not hesitate to pronounce the Hall typewriter greatly superior in all respect to any I have seen.

Because of an oversight no second or third prizes were announced last month, but they will be given "just the same." The second prize will be any five of our Best Books, and the third prize any three.

The contest does not close until July 10th, and there is therefore ample time for all. If not already a subscriber, sent in your lists to Geo. D. Thomas, 14 High St., Waltham, Mass., who has charge of the contest, or send direct to the office.

Remember that the base words are BLACK AND WHITE. Full rules governing the contest may be had by addressing the publishers, or they will be found in the May issue.

Answer to "Another Old Puzzle."

From SIX take IX and S will remain,
From IX take X and I will remain,
From XL take L and X will remain.

DO you want a knife, or a razor, or a pair of scissors ? Write to Alling & Lodge, Madison, Ind., for a price list. They sell the best goods, and at the lowest prices. In writing for lists, please mention this paper.

TALKS ON PHOTOGRAPHY.

By GOTTHELF PACH, 935 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

THIS is a glorious time in the year for the Camera. Of course in the country where the wind blows it shakes the trees so that it is difficult to get good results, but even on a windy day there is a lull now and then when a quick picture can be taken.

But trees and shady spots can't be photographed in a hurry, whereas a house or view lit by sun can be taken in a half second, and a grove or heavily shaded spot will easily take three seconds. Now for the amateur who wants to take good pictures all things must be considered.

If you want to get the best results you must study the light and shade on your subject, for the light makes a wonderful difference in your finished picture. So be sure and take your photograph where your subject looks the best. Some say I hardly know when it is best. I will tell you, you don't want it all covered with sun, that makes it flat, neither do you want to take it when all is in the shade for that will make it look lifeless when finished.

I am now speaking only of views, and therefore this will not apply to portraits, groups and other styles of photography. What you want in views is half sunlight and halfshade, and with a little care in the time you give it will result in your ultimate success. Messrs. Anthony & Co. of 591 Broadway, New York, publish a book called the "A B C of Photography." They either sell it for a trifle or give it away as an advertisement, this book contains some first class and simple articles for the beginner and it is a good staff or adviser to have in times of need.

In taking portraits out doors or indoors, you want to be sure that you place the subject in the best light. This can be easily done in a room by placing the subject sideways to the light and using a screen on the shadow side. A screen can be a sheet on a clothes' horse or any other simple device, then move the head of the sitter as the light makes it look best.

Never put your subject full face to the light otherwise you may not know the picture when you see it.

And this same rule holds good with groups and portraits in the open air. Try and get a shady spot where the light comes down slanting, not flat, front or behind your subject, and if you will be careful in the plain facts laid down in the A B C of book photography then you should succeed.

I have now told you how to take views, portraits and groups. Next month we will talk of very quick work such as taking of yachts, movable objects and animals. In the meantime I should be glad to hear whether any of the readers want any further facts. If so let's hear from young and old.

• • PLAIN TALK • •

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To Foreign Countries, 75 cents per annum.

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PLAIN TALK will be stopped at expiration of subscription when the publishers are so requested, but *unless so requested* it will not be stopped. Subscribers will please note this fact. We have no desire to force the paper upon its readers, and a simple request to stop will be all that is necessary, but unless this request is received it will be continued.

ADVERTISING RATES.

Per line per insertion, 10 cents; per inch, \$1.00; per column, \$8.00. Space less than one column must be paid at inch rates; less than one inch at line rates. Ten per cent. discount for six months; 20 per cent. for one year. Rates invariable and all advertisements subject to approval.

Entered as second-class matter at the New York, N. Y., Post Office.

NEW YORK, JUNE, 1891.

THE word-hunt for the Hall Typewriter is likely to prove of great interest. There is yet time for lists to be sent, as the contest does not close until July 10th. Send in the lists.

A SPLENDID \$25.00 "Kodak" camera is to be the prize in the word-hunt to be announced next month. There is an endless amount of enjoyment to be had from one of these cameras, and we expect the contest will be a sharp one. Look out for it, and take part in it.

MANY more subscribers should take advantage of the book offers made by the publishers. A very few hours' work among friends would secure several subscriptions and add numerous choice volumes to the library. Try it, boys and girls.

If I Could be a Boy Again

I WOULD try to be a good base-ball player.

But I wouldn't neglect my studies, or ruin my health in an effort to be the best player in school.

I would try to be at the head of my class,

But I wouldn't get cross and sour if some other boy, or even a girl, was above me.

I would be thankful every day that I lived in these days of the Nineteenth Century,

But I wouldn't expect to reap a rich harvest from the field of golden opportunities without first sowing the seed of industry and careful thought and observation.

I would give a great deal of time to the study of natural history, in its different branches,

But I would put from me the spirit of cruelty which some boys exhibit in this line.

I would read all the good books and papers I could put my hands on,

But I would read no faster than I could thoroughly understand and digest,

"If I could be a boy again."

Some Steamship Information.

QUESTIONS.

WHAT was the name of the first steamship that crossed the Atlantic and how long did it take her?

2. What is the largest passenger steamship in commission?

3. What is the cost of a steamship like the "Majestic?"
4. What steamship carries the largest number of cabin passengers?
5. What has been the greatest day's run of any Ocean steamship?
6. Is speed materially increased by twin screws?
7. What line has the largest transatlantic fleet of first-class passenger steamships, and how many?
8. How many steamships are there engaged in the transatlantic passenger trade?
9. What is the longest steamship now in service in the world?
10. What Captain has been the longest in the transatlantic service?
11. How many cabin passengers were landed in New York during 1890?
12. How much coal is consumed by one of the great liners in twenty-four hours?
13. What is the average expense of a single voyage—New York to Liverpool and return?
14. What were the dimensions of the Great Eastern? when was she launched? and what was her horse power?
15. What is the length of a nautical knot in land measure?
16. (a) What is the distance sailed, in nautical miles, from New York to Liverpool?
(b) From Liverpool to New York?
17. (a) Between what points are records estimated?
(b) What is the first light sighted on the British coast? The American?
18. What is the greatest number of immigrants ever landed in New York in a year? In a day?
19. What was the first regular transatlantic line, and when established?
20. What are the chief landing ports on the European side?

ANSWERS.

1. The "Savannah," in 1819. Twenty-five days. (The usual time for one of the fast clipper ships was from 16 to 21 days.)
2. "City of Paris," 10,499 tons displacement.
3. Nearly two millions of dollars.
4. The "Etruria," 550.
5. 515 miles.
6. No, but the vessel can turn quicker, and if one shaft breaks, the other will carry her into port.
7. North German Lloyd. Twelve vessels.
8. About 90.
9. The "Teutonic," 565.08 feet long.
10. Captain Brooks of the "Arizona," Guion Line.
11. 99,189.
12. About three-hundred tons, or 466 pounds a minute.
13. \$75,000.
14. 680 feet long, 83 feet broad, 25 feet draught. Launched January 10th, 1856. Horse power, 6,600. She had both side wheels and screw.
15. 6,080 feet. A land mile is 5,280 feet.
16. (a) New York to Sandy Hook, 16 miles; Sandy Hook to Roches Point, northern track, 2,805 miles; southern track, 2,880 miles; from Roches Point to Mersey Bar, 229 miles; and from the bar to Stage Landing in Liverpool, 14 miles. Totals: No. track, 3,064 miles; So. track, 3,139 miles.
(b) From Liverpool Landing to Roches Point, 243 miles; from Roches Point to Sandy Hook light, northern track, 2,780 miles; southern track, 2,850 miles; Sandy Hook to New York, 16 miles. Totals: No. track, 3,039 miles; So. track, 3,109 miles.
17. (a) Sandy Hook and Daunt's Rock, Queenstown Harbor, near Roches Point.
(b) Bull, cow and calf, south coast of Ireland; Nan-tucket or Fire Island.
18. 455,450 in 1883. Nearly 10,000, May 11th, 1887.
19. The British and American Royal Mail and Steam Packet Co. Founded in 1840 by Samuel Cunard.
20. Liverpool, for the Cunard, Inman, White Star, Guion and Anchor Lines; Havre for the French; Bremen for the North German Lloyd; Antwerp for the Red Star; Rotterdam and Amsterdam for the Netherlands; Glasgow for the Anchor and State; Hamburg for the Hamburg-American; Copenhagen for the Thingvalla.—*From Scribners'.*

HOW TO DO IT.

Original contributions solicited for this page. Send sketches, no matter how rough, with descriptions, and when possible, illustrations will be made.

Butterfly Decalcomania.

NOW that the season of butterflies is nearly at hand, some directions for transferring the beautiful colors of their wings to paper, so that they can be preserved indefinitely, may be of interest. The process is a very simple one and only needs a little care and practice to obtain most satisfactory results.

The color of the wings of butterflies is, as is well known, due to minute scales with which they are covered, like the body of a fish. These scales are very loosely attached and are rubbed off at the slightest touch, as every one knows who has ever handled a butterfly. For this reason they can easily be transferred to paper, porcelain, glass or other substances, by a process almost exactly similar to that used in transferring decalcomania pictures.

Having obtained a suitable specimen, the wings must be carefully separated from the body with a pair of fine scissors. A solution of the best gum arabic must be previously prepared, to which is added a little sugar, a little salt, and a lit-

tle alum. This mucilage should be of the consistency of a very thin syrup. Then with a camel's-hair brush spread it thinly over the paper so as to roughly form the outline of the space to be occupied by the wing. (No. 1.) The wings may be arranged either open or closed (a, b, No. 3) but space must be left for the body to be painted in afterwards. The wings are then carefully placed in position upon the mucilage, and, if a reproduction of both sides of them is desired, a second piece of paper, also covered with mucilage, is placed over them; the whole is placed between several pieces of blotting-paper, and pressed strongly together by means of weights, or any simple form of press—a letter copying press answers nicely—and left for about twenty-four hours.

At the end of this time, after the mucilage has become thoroughly dry, the two sheets of paper, now firmly glued together; are removed from the press and the part occupied by the wings very carefully cut out with the scissors, leaving only a very narrow margin of white paper. This margin is very carefully moistened with water by the aid of a small camel's-hair brush, when the two pieces of paper will



separate, leaving on each a perfect imprint of the wings in natural colors. The scales have been transferred bodily to the paper. Any small pieces of the wings that may still adhere to the paper can be removed with the point of a needle.

It is evident that in these transfers we see only the lower surfaces of the scales, which are next to the wings, and in some butterflies this lower surface is of a very different color. To obviate this difficulty, they must be transferred once more so that we may obtain a positive picture, as it were, of the wings. To do this take some fine spirit varnish, such as is used by photographers, and carefully paint the first copy of the wings with it; then lay it face downwards upon a piece of heavy glazed paper or cardboard, and put it in the

press until the varnish has dried, after which, by moistening with water, the first piece of paper may be removed, leaving the image of the wings on the cardboard, right side up, and in the natural colors. It is then only necessary to dry it, paint in the body of the butterfly, and give it another thin coat of varnish as a protection. In some species of



moths the long hairs with which the body is covered, may be shaved off and added to the drawing with good effect, or, with large specimens portions of the skin itself may be removed and used in the same way. Usually, how-

ever, it will be sufficient to draw or paint the outlines of the body on the cardboard, in the blank space between the transferred images of the wings.

It sometimes happens, especially in the case of butterflies of a blue color, that the layers of scales absorb some of the mucilage so as to change their color almost to a black.

The only remedy for this is to remove the gum by careful and continued washing, and the final varnishing must be omitted. The success of the whole process depends upon the care and skill with which it is conducted, but when the art is once acquired, it will prove a source of much pleasure,



and the transferred specimens may even be of scientific value, as they can be easier preserved than the dry insects themselves, and are not liable to be injured by the numerous parasites or accidents, which so often destroy collections in museums and elsewhere.—*Popular Science News*.

The Prize Story Contest.

THE prizes announced some months ago have been awarded as follows:

First prize, for a story of adventure, to Edward Dana Sabine, 24 Mountain Ave., Malden, Mass. Title of story, "Out Among the Rockies."

First prize, for story by young lady subscriber, to "E. D. P., "Emma P. Dodge, 82 Brown St., Waltham, Mass. Title of story, "Edith o' Barkins."

Second prize to "Bert." Title of story, "A Night of Peril."

Deepest Hole in the World.

ONE of the most important scientific explorations into the depths of the earth ever undertaken will be carried out near Wheeling, West Virginia, under the joint auspices of the United States government and the city of Wheeling. Some months ago the Wheeling Development company began drilling a well near the city in search of oil or gas. It was determined to bore as far as possible. The hole has already reached the depth of 4300 feet, within 200 feet of the deepest well in the world. In this distance a dozen of thick veins of coal have been passed; oil and gas both struck, but not in paying quantities, and gold quartz, iron, and many other minerals found. The hole is eight inches in diameter and the largest in diameter of any deep well in the world. The government will take up the work under the direction of two expert officers of the Geological survey and drill into the earth as far as human skill can penetrate. The idea is to take the temperature and magnetic conditions as far as possible, and by means of an instrument constructed for the purpose a complete record of the progress and all discoveries will be kept.

THE American Archaeological Association.

*President, A. F. BERLIN, Allentown, Pa.
Vice-President, Dr. D. S. MCARTHUR, Lacrosse, Wis.
Secretary, A. B. FARNHAM, Bennings, D. C.
Treasurer, E. J. SHERIDAN, 295 Adelphi Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Librarian, CHAS. A. PERKINS, Wakefield, Mass.
Exchange Superintendent, J. R. NISSELEY, Ada, Ohio.
Counterfeit Detector,
Board of Trustees, JOS. WIGGLESWORTH, Wilmington, Del.; E. J. ROCKWOOD,
10 Coral Street, Worcester, Mass.; G. L. FANCHER, West Winsted, Conn.*

THE American Archaeological Association was organized, to quote from its Constitution, "to assist its members in acquiring knowledge in regard to Archaeology, in all its branches." It is intended rather for young collectors and students than for the more advanced, although all classes are equally desired and welcomed. There is no initiation fee, and the membership dues are but \$1.00 per year. An annual convention is held, the place selected for the next being Washington, D. C. The co-operation and support of every earnest Archaeologist, in the land, young or old, is desired. There is no more fascinating line of research and study, nor any which pays the diligent student larger dividends of pleasure and satisfaction. Each member receives free of charge each month the Official Organ of the Association, *PLAIN TALK*, 5 Beekman St., New York, and is thus kept informed as to the organization, and as well in regard to the "science" in general. If you, who receive this paper, are at all interested in Archaeology, will you not send your application at once to the Secretary? If not interested, please pass it to some friend who is interested. Any member or officer will be glad to give any information in his power.

A. F. BERLIN, President,
Allentown, Pa.
A. B. FARNHAM, Secretary,
Bennings, D. C.

Secretary's Report.

I HAVE received but one application for membership during the past month.

APPLICANT.

Jas. S. Eagle, Flag Pond, Va.
References: John Seals, Quarter, Tenn., Francis Slagle, Rocky Station, Va.

This is the third application which has been secured by Mr. G. W. Robinette. As the season for collecting is now well open new enthusiasm will be kindled and the members of the A. A. A., should all become active members. Push, and push together for success.

ALBERT B. FARNHAM, *Secretary.*

Archæological Chatter.

I SHALL, in this number of *PLAIN TALK*, tell my readers still more of the different modes of arrow chipping.

On p. 601 of the "Smithsonian Report for 1887," Mr. Clement L. Webster, of Charles City, Iowa, says of "Flint Chipping": "Some years ago Dr. Knapp—he appears to have obtained all this information from the above gentleman—while making a reconnaissance of "Twelve-mile Island," in the Mississippi near Guttenberg, Iowa, made the acquaintance of a roving band of Pottawatomie Indians, who were for a time encamped on this island. While among them he witnessed the process of flint arrow point making as carried on by this band. A tree from twelve to twenty inches in diameter was selected and a large notch six inches deep was made on one side of the trunk at a sufficient distance from the ground to allow of a person occupying a sitting posture on the ground to work this instrument with facility. The upper portion or roof of this notch sloped obliquely downward; the farther side was perpendicular and the bottom horizontal. Thus:

On the bottom of this cavity a small, even slab of rock of some hard material was placed. A short distance above this rock a small hole was made in the farther side of the cavity. Into this depression was inserted the leg bone of a

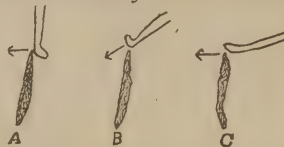
deer, and under this was placed, edgewise and resting on the basal rock below, the piece of stone to be wrought, this possessing the quality of conchoidal fracture. The imple-

ment was then deftly worked out by pressure of the carefully manipulated rounded bone. The size of the instrument to be wrought was regulated by moving the specimen farther from or near to the outer margin of the basal rock."

The Hon. S. P. Leland, also of Charles City, saw some of the Indian tribes in the Western Territories make their arrow-points with pressure and the application of heat. First, three stones of some hard material not easily acted upon by heat, of a rounded form, about five inches in diameter and six inches long, were placed in the fire and heated hot. Then a fragment of stone of suitable size and quality was selected to be wrought. One of the stones was then taken from the fire and applied with pressure to the edge of the piece of stone to be worked, this causing chips or flakes to be broken from the piece. While the first stone was still hot it was replaced in the fire and a second one taken out and used on the first. This process was repeated until the work in hand was finished. By this method beautiful arrow-points were made.

The late Paul Schumacher in Bulletin U. S. Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories, Vol. 3, in Art. 17, "Methods of Making Stone Weapons," says: "During my rambles among the remnants of our Pacific Coast Aborigines I had an opportunity, among the Klamath Indians, of gaining information of the manufacture of stone weapons, for which my interest was not a little stimulated, by extensive collections made by our party among the deserted hearths of the coast tribes. I had the good luck to meet the last arrow-maker of the tribe, located on the right bank and near the mouth of the Klamath River, who has since joined his fore-fathers in the happy hunting-ground. He showed me the mode of making stone weapons, of which the following is a description:

"For the manufacture of arrow and spear points, etc., chert, chalcedony, jasper, agate, obsidian, and similar stones of conchoidal fracture are used. The rock is first exposed to fire, and after a thorough heating, rapidly cooled off, when it flakes readily into sherds of different sizes under well directed blows at its cleavage. The fragments are assorted according to shape and size best corresponding to the weapons desired; the small ones, best fit in shape and thickness, are used for arrow-heads; similar sherds, but larger in size, for spear-points; the long, narrow pieces for borers, and so on. To work the flakes into the desired forms, certain tools are required. These consist of a stick, which is in form and thickness not unlike an arrow-shaft and about 1½ feet long, to one end of which a point is fastened, of some tough material, as the tooth of the sea-lion, or the horn of elk, and even iron among the present Klamaths, although the rock does not work as well, and brittle where the edge ought to be sharp. The point has a beveled curve, which form admits a gradual pressure to a limited space of the edge of the sherd. During the operation, the rock is partially inwrapped in a piece of buck-skin for better manipulation, its flat side resting against the fleshy part of the thumb of the left hand, on the edge to be worked being left exposed. The tool is worked with the right hand, while the lower part of the handle, usually ornamented, is held between the arm and the body so as to guide the instrument with a steady hand. With the movement as illustrated at A,



larger flakes are detached, and the rock is roughly shaped into the desired form: while with the movement shown at B, long flakes are broken, which frequently reach the middle of the sherd, producing the ridge of the points or knives; and with movement illustrated at C, the smaller chips of the cutting edge are worked. The work proceeds from the point, the more fragile part of the weapon toward the stronger end. To work out the barbs and the projections of the arrow or spear points, a bone needle is used about four to five inches long without a shaft. The movements are those as illustrated at B. and C."

A. F. B.

THE "Kodak" photographic camera is a household word, and so far as we have heard has never yet failed to give full satisfaction to every intelligent user.

NUMISMATICS.

CHARLES T. TATMAN - - - EDITOR,
93 PIEDMONT ST., WORCESTER, MASS.

COIN collectors are becoming more and more interested in the idea of forming an American Numismatic Association. The prevailing sentiment seems to be that the society should be largely in the interests of those collectors who are not particularly advanced, but are seeking to increase their collections and form new friendships among the numismatic fraternity.

When should a convention be held? Dr. George F. Heath, of Monroe, Mich., favors putting off the meeting until fall. Do collectors favor August, September, or October? Send in your ideas.

The other day I called upon Mr. J. C. Schayer, at 45 Milk street, Boston. Although Mr. S. does not pretend to do as much in coins as in stamps, he always has some thing that the "coin-cranks" want.

The same day, Mr. Herbert E. Morey of 31 Exchange street, Boston, was visited. Mr. Morey, who bought out Henry Ahlborn, last winter, has recently purchased the stock of Mason & Co. All numismatists visiting the Hub should call upon Mr. Morey, as they will find him an accommodating dealer, with an excellent stock.

One of the most beautiful medals connected with American history is that struck by France in commemoration of the alliance formed by that country with the thirteen colonies during the Revolution. On one side is the head of "Libertas Americana," and on the other is an allegorical picture representing the goddess France warding off the British lion from the child America.

Mr. E. Locke Mason, formerly of Boston, Mass., has removed to Philadelphia, where he has, near the Mint, an office for the purchase of gold and silver.

The coins of Paraguay are rarely seen in collections. They are much "harder" than the coins of Uruguay.

The 1877 United States cent is worth six cents.

Uncirculated 1818 and 1820 cents have been a drug on the market for a year or two, owing to the discovery of an abundance of them.

It seems somewhat strange that coins of Napoleon I. are not common. One would suppose that such a great conqueror and such a self-glorifier would scatter his imperial moneys broad-cast among the vanquished realms.

The remarks of Mr. Alvah Davison, at the anniversary dinner of the Brooklyn Philatelic Club, are worthy to be read by every collector, and are as applicable to the numismatic as to the philatelic fraternity. Among other good words, Mr. Davison said:

"We have no signs, grips or anything of that sort to go by, we have no constitution to swear by, but I tell you we have the real thing—we have the friendship, the friendly feeling which is ingrained into the soul and there is no getting out of it. This is a great thing, and I may say that the most drawing attraction that I find in philately is the friendship that is in it, and if there were nothing else in it, I would still be identified with philately simply for the pleasure it would give me if I should be traveling anywhere, to call on some of these collectors, and I would be at home with them. They are friends of mine, and I glory in the thing; I am a stamp collector simply for the friendships that are gained in it."

Most collectors would not be able to state just why they are "cranks" but there is lots of truth in Mr. Davison's idea.

The famous "Baron de Goertz Dalers" were made of copper, but the value was made by law the same as a silver "daler" or dollar.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

Robert R. Postans, Farrington, Va.—Your piece is a "Jackson token" and is worth about 10 cents.

C. C. N. N.—1. A Mexican dollar of 1820 is worth \$1.04. 2. Your medal is a Centennial Exhibition piece. 3. To test a coin to tell whether it is silver or not, drop it into a

solution, the recipe for which is given below; and, if genuine, there will be no effect upon the coin; if base, the counterfeit will turn black at once. Recipe;—24 grains silver nitrate; 15 grains nitric acid; 1 ounce water.

E. T. O., Philadelphia.—The effect you describe is probably produced by heating the coin in olive oil.

AMATEUR PRESS NOTES.

Conducted by "AN OLD BOY."

THE SCHOOL PRESS.

Among the school papers for April which reached this office may be mentioned: *The Oracle*, Malden, Mass.; *Argus*, Philadelphia; *Racquet*, Portland, Me.; *Commencement Herald*, Tacoma, Wash.; *Owl*, Rockford, Ill.; *Echo*, Manchester, N. H.; *Aegis*, Oakland, Calif.

THE AMATEUR PRESS.

The *Ivy Leaf*, Philadelphia published, by Melloy Bros., and edited by E. St. Elmo Lewis, is always of interest, and the April number is no exception.—The *American*, published at Easton, Md., with E. S. Shannahan as editor, and C. E. Bray as manager, is "devoted to amateur journalism and the Mutual Benefit Amateur Press Association." It is a good paper.—Those desiring information regarding the Southern Amateur Press Association should address A. E. Baker, Embla, Md.—The *Western Amateur* is the official organ of the W. A. P. A., and is issued from 418 California st., San Francisco, Calif. by D. L. Hollub, who is the official editor of the Association.—C. W. Smith's *Monthly Visitor*, issued from Haverhill, Mass., is always well filled with interesting matter.—The next National Amateur Press Association at Philadelphia, in July.—The *Yankee Youth*, comes from Hardin Springs, Ky.—The *Knights* is published by White Cross Company, No. 44, Knights of Temperance, from 1555 Atlantic Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y. James A. Walling, 635 Hancock St., is the managing editor.

The above matter was crowded out of last issue. Arrangements will be made hereafter so that due amount of space can be had each month.

The *National Amateur* reports the following new papers: *Musings*, E. J. Hardcastle, John H. Cole, Frank Stout, Jr., 817 W. 9th St., Wilmington, Del.

The Gem, Arthur S. Mann, Wm. H. Walker, Jr., Emil A. Becker, Jr., 71 West North Street, Buffalo, N. Y.

The Young Helper, H. C. Godley, 308 Montgomery Street, Jersey City, N. J.

The Hawkeye Ledger, Alfred R. Gardener, Atlantic, Iowa. *Golden Grains*, S. Estle Miller, Oak Hill, Ohio.

The Southern Critic, W. E. Davies, Julian McCamy, Percy R. Baker, J. M. Nealon, Dalton, Ga.

The New Century, F. T. Mayor, Alfred Rieser, Marshall Clinton, 58 Johnson Place, Buffalo, N. Y.

The Racket, Alfred L. Bieker, Reginald Smith, 360 Penna. Street, Buffalo, N. Y.

The Crescent, Chas. H. Williams, Chas. Peabody, 567 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.

The South, John T. Nixon, 97 Poydaas St, New Orleans, La.

Hatching Out Alligators.

QUITE a business has sprung up in Florida of hatching alligator eggs by an artificial incubator, says the *Globe-Democrat*. It seems that the demand for alligators was so lively that the natives could not catch enough to supply the market. Some genius conceived the idea of saving himself the trouble of splashing around in the water after young alligators; so he got a lot of eggs, put them in an incubator and hatched out as fine a lot of young reptiles as any one would wish to see.

They were about six inches long when they emerged, as black as a clergyman's coat and as wicked in disposition as the oldest and ugliest gator that ever scared a pickaninny or devoured a yellow dog. He fed them at first on oatmeal, and after a few days of Scotch diet taught them to eat meat by choking them till they opened their mouths and then dropping a bit down their throats. He tried milk, but they would not drink till he held them with their noses down in the pan so that they had to drink or suffocate; so they drank.

NATURAL HISTORY.

Contributions to this department are solicited from all readers. Questions will be answered by competent authorities.

A Few Poisonous Plants.

THE season is upon us when out-door pastimes are in order, and it may not be out of place to give a few hints in regard to common poisonous plants. For the chief "points" we are indebted to an article originally published in *Babyhood*, and written by Dr. John Dorning.

POISON-IVY.

The most common form of vegetable poisoning is by the poison-ivy (*Rhus toxicodendron*). One variety, the "running ivy," is called "poison-vine." The other is variously named, in different localities, "poison-sumach," "poison-oak." The former was once considered a distinct species (*Rhus radicans*). Even the emanations of this species of vegetation are injurious to some individuals, who, from remaining a short time near it or from handling it, experience severe inflammation and swelling of the skin, with sometimes much constitutional disturbance, while it is remarkable that others appear quite unsusceptible of its influence. (See Fig. 1.)

It has leaves of three leaflets, smooth and shining on the upper surface and downy on the under side, and resembles the innocent Virginian creeper or common "woodbine" ivy, with the difference that the latter has five leaflets. Growing at the base of a tree or beside a rock or fence, it puts forth numerous tendrils, and by means of these climbs to a great distance. When it grows in an open space, with no convenient support, it has the habit of a low shrub from one to three feet high, and is then called poison-oak. We once saw a little fellow who was out berrying with his companions warn them of danger, as they were approaching a fence along which was growing some poison-ivy, by holding up three fingers—three fingers signifying three-leaved poison-ivy, or danger; five fingers meant five-leaved Virginian creeper, or safety.



Fig. 2.—POKE-WEED.

SWAMP SUMACH.

Another species of poison-sumach (*Rhus venenata*), called swamp sumach, poison-elder or alder, or dog-wood, is commonly found in swamps or wet places. It grows from six to eighteen feet high, has smooth, pale gray bark, three to six pairs of leaflets and an odd terminal one on each stem, and greenish-yellow or greenish-white fruit.

POKE-WEED.

Poke (*Phytolacca decandra*), commonly known as pigeon-berry, is also called scoke-weed, poke-weed, American nightshade, red nightshade, red-weed, cancer-root (Fig. 2). It grows on roadsides, farmyards, and uncultivated fields. The stem is from three to eight feet high, much branched, at first green, but becoming purplish with age. The berries are clustered on a stem, have a dark purple color, and are filled with a crimson juice which has a sweetish, nauseous, and somewhat acrid taste, and peculiar though faint odor. Children often decorate their faces with the juice of the berry. The berry is poisonous.



Fig. 3.—POISON-HEMLOCK.

POISON-HEMLOCK.

Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), sometimes called "Poison-parsley," is common in waste places in the Northern and Middle States (Fig. 3). It grows from two to five feet high, has an erect, round, smooth stem of light green color and spotted with purple or brown. The flowers are white, very small, and grouped into umbrella-shaped clusters. The berries are brownish when ripe, small and clustered. The root resembles a small parsnip. Its poisonous properties depend upon the season of the year and the climate in which it grows. It should be avoided.

round, smooth stem of light green color and spotted with purple or brown. The flowers are white, very small, and grouped into umbrella-shaped clusters. The berries are brownish when ripe, small and clustered. The root resembles a small parsnip. Its poisonous properties depend upon the season of the year and the climate in which it grows. It should be avoided.

BITTER-SWEET.

Bittersweet (*Solanum dulcamara*)—so-called because of its bitter and subsequently sweet taste—is variously named woody nightshade, violet-bloom, etc. (Fig. 4). It is a shrubby plant, its stems trailing or climbing often several feet in length. The bark of the main stem is ash-colored, that of the branches purplish. The flowers are small, purple, and pendulous, and have a heavy narcotic odor. The fruit is a smooth, oval, scarlet berry containing numerous seeds.



Fig. 4.—BITTER-SWEET.

This plant should not be mistaken for the woody bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*), or climbing-staff tree, which grows along borders of woods and streams and along old fences. This has a globular, orange-colored berry at maturity, opening and folding backwards, exposing seeds which are covered with a crimson, fleshy coating. The berries are very ornamental and are gathered for household decoration.

HELLEBORE.

American hellebore (*Veratrum viride*) has a number of popular names, as swamp hellebore, Indian poke, itch-weed, bear-weed, puppet-root, wolf-bane, etc. (Fig. 5). It grows in swampy and low grounds, often associated with skunk-cabbage. It grows from two to four feet high; has broad, oval, pointed, plaited leaves; the flowers are small, green, and arranged in a dense, spike-like cluster.

THORN-APPLE.

Thorn-apple (*Datura stramonium*), also known as Jamestown-weed, devil's-apple, and apple of Peru (Fig. 6), is a poisonous plant found growing in waste places. It grows from one to three feet high, has large, egg-shaped leaves, the margins of which are angular or toothed. The flowers are white, funnel-shaped, and plaited, and have a sickly odor; they blossom in July and August. The fruit consists of a globular capsule or pod (hence the name thorn-apple), containing many kidney-shaped, blackish seeds.

POISON-TOBACCO.

Henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*), also termed poison-tobacco or stinking nightshade, is a poisonous herb to be found in uncultivated places (Fig. 7). It grows from one to two feet high; its stem is viscid or sticky, covered with a hairy down, and

Fig. 5.—AMERICAN HELLEBORE.



Fig. 6.—THORN-APPLE.

has a fetid, nauseous odor. The leaves are large, ovate, with an irregular border, and of a dull green color. The flowers are funnel-shaped, about an inch long, and of a



Fig. 7.—POISON-TOBACCO.

straw-yellow color marked with purple veins. The fruit consists of a capsule or pod containing many brown seeds, and is enclosed in a large calyx or cup or envelope.

The Cucujo.

THE fire-fly of the south, the *cucujo*, an inch long beetle, is occasionally brought to this country as a curiosity, and if fed on sugar cane and kept in a moist atmosphere it can be preserved in health for several weeks. The people of the Caribbean Islands use these beetles for ornaments, confined in folds of gauze when the beautiful green light which they emit, their red light flashes only in flying, is more varied and splendid than any emerald that ever shone in a king's coronet. A number of them together under a glass make a sufficient illumination for dressing or reading without producing any heat.

Our Choir.

THERE'S Jane Sophia,,
And Ann Maria,
With Obediah,
And Jedekiah,
In our choir.

And Jane Sophia, soprano sings
So high you'd think her voice had wings
To soar above all earthly things,
When she leads off on Sunday;
While Ann Maria's alto choice
Rings out in such harmonious voice
That sinners in the church rejoice
And wish she'd sing till Monday.

Then Obediah's tenor high
Is unsurpassed beneath the sky:
Just hear him sing: "Sweet By and By,"
And you will sit and wonder;
While Jedekiah's bass profound
Goes down so low it jars the ground.
And wakes the echoes miles around,
Like distant rolling thunder.

Talk not to us of Patti's fame,
Of Nicolini's tenor tame,
Of Cary's alto—but a name—
Of Whitney's ponderous basso!
They sing no more like Jane Sophia,
And Ann Maria, Obediah,
And Jedekiah in our choir
Than cats sing like Tommaso!

—Musical Record.

PUZZLEDOM

CONDUCTED BY "FISCO."

Address all communications pertaining to this Department to EDGAR D. MELVILLE, Puzzle Editor PLAIN TALK
923 Upland Street, Chester, Pa.

Answers to Puzzles that Appeared in the January Number.

- No. 1. VIOLET (vie-o-let.)
No. 2. fear
emma
amen
rant
No. 3. UNITED STATES.
No. 4. Dress, cress, press, tress.
No. 5. H
hoe
Homer
e'en
r

Answers to Puzzles that Appeared in the February Number.

- No. 6. O'! Hail! Ice King!
No. 7. c
lot
cover
ten
r
No. 8. Solon
olive
lires
overt
nests
No. 9. Quean
urge
egg
ae
n
No. 10. Not in vain the distance beacons,
Forward, forward, let us range;
Let the great world spin forever,
Down the ringing grooves of change.
No. 11. PLAIN TALK'S Puzzledom.
No. 12. New Year.
No. 13. m
nap
madly
ply
y
No. 14. Enact
nacre
actor
cross
terse
No. 15. Lyceum
Elmira
Vessel
Esteem
Rifles
Epopoe
Touchy

Answers to Puzzles that Appeared in the March Number.

- No. 16. Dahlia.

No. 17. Diet-Tied-Edit-Tide.

No. 18. Light-house.

No. 19. t
the
think
end
k

No. 20. Carib
anel
resin
iliac
bench

No. 21. STRAIT

No. 22. That
hame
amen
tent

No. 23. r
fen
fifer
referee
nerve
ree
e

No. 24. Amice, mice, ice.

No. 25. p
lea
Percy
ace
y

Answers to Puzzles that Appeared in the April Number.

- No. 1. porter
opiate
ribbed
tabard
etern
red den
No. 2. MISER-ABLE-NESS.
No. 3. d
sip
stare
diamond
proud
end
d
No. 4. ever
very
erie
ryes
No. 5. ORNITHORHYNCHUS.
No. 6. t
not
tones
ten
s

No. 7. Footprints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother
Seeing shall take heart again.

New Puzzles.

No. 1. CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.

In "recline," but not in sit;
In "recluse," but not in hermit;
In "action," but not in strife;
In "consort," but not in wife;
In "chance," but not in guess;
In "turnip," but not in cress;
In "drop," but not in fall;
In "lean," but not in tall;
My whole is taken between meals
As food for dyspepsia's call,
We'd better dispense with the baiting
Or the Doctor 'll be around in a call.
Larone, Me., "FOLDEROL."

No. 2. WORD-SQUARE.

1. Manila-hemp; 2. Hog's flesh,
cured with salt and dried; 3. Sharp: 4.
A measure for cowries, containing 12,000
of them; 5. Near (rare)
Waterman, Ill., "SOLON."

No. 3. DIAMOND.

1. In prayer; 2. To cut off; 3. Per-
taining to the Poles; 4. A mythologi-
cal God; 5. In prayer.
Nutley, N. J., "LATIO."

No. 4. SQUARE.

1. An animal; 2. Margin; brink:
3. Chilliness; 4. Adance peculiar to
Scotland.
White Plains, N. Y., "E. L. H."

No. 5. NUMERICAL ENIGMA.
13 Letters.

I sent my brother 123 one-day—to, 4,
store
For 5, 6, get me some 1 to 13—galore
Now in the country where 9, 11, 8—I
to 6—doth grow;
No one need be without it—donch yer
know?
It is there they 3478—12, 13,—oh
lots,
So 10, 11, 8, 4, 13 you eat it—by the
pots.
Jersey City, N. J., "INCOGNITO."

No. 6. ANAGRAM.

Is that you Mike?
Me! No! I'm Pat.
Orillia, Ont., "DON" THE CANUCK.

No. 7. SQUARE.

1. A P. O. of Macomb Co., Mich.; 2.
One of the German cavalry of the four-
teenth and fifteenth centuries; 3. A
genus of leguminous plants; 4. Unac-
cented; 5. To mourn the loss of; 6.
Drawn away (obs).
Vaughns, N. Y., "BOB. O' LINK."

No. 8. DIAMOND.

1. A letter; 2. An exclamation; 3.
Persons of like reputation; 4. Sources;
5. A pun; 6. A poisonous plant; 7.
Cruel; 8. To petition; 9. A letter.
West Gray, Me., "ALEX"

No. 9. ANAGRAM.

Bright is the Holly, white is the Mistle-
toe,
Christmas is coming again.
Confusion and terror are over the border:
"MARCH! HE WILL SMITE US—AMEN."
Lay down your aims, when he ap-
proaches

Defeat is certain then.
Flee or surrender, but never oppose him,
"MARCH! HE WILL SMITE US—AMEN."
Malden, Mass., "BLAIR ATHOL."
No. 10.

METAGRAM.

Change the initial of to part and have
respectively, a disease, a mechanical
power, at no time.

Cedar Rapids, Ia., "NEMO."
No. 11.

NUMERICAL ENIGMA.

My whole is an old saying.
7, 6, 13, 34, 18, 27, 2, 29, 4, is pretty.
17, 21, 22, 1, 26 to work bread.
8, 12, 5, 15, a thin covering.
11, 10, 14, part of the body.
23, 3, 9, 31, is a period of time.
19, 28, 24, 33, immediately.
25, 20, 32, 30, 18, is sound.
16, 4, 5, everything.
Sunbury, Ohio, "METEOR."
No. 12.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.

In eel not in fish.
In plate not in dish.
In fat not in thin.
In turn not in spin.

When you're got the whole of me,
You won't be with the crowd you'll see.
Malden, Mass., "BLAIR ATHOL."

Prize.

Any two of our "Best Books."
The above-named prize will be awarded
on the following plan: If an even num-
ber of correct answers are received, the
prize will be sent to the one sending the
first; if an odd number, to the one
sending the middle correct answer, un-
less divisible by five, when it will be
given for the last correct answer.

Answers to puzzles appearing in this
issue will be published in the August
number, and answers will be received
up to July 10th, but no answers re-
ceived after that date will count.

Prize Winner.

Henry Thomas Ward, 124 Inadra
Street, Victoria, Vancouver's Island,
British Columbia, Canada.

Complete lists were received from E.
L. H., Alex., Folderol, Don, and Henry
Thomas Ward. Incomplete lists were
received from Popo, Incognito, Albu-
querque, Latio, Mrs. A. L. Sherwood,
Mrs. T. N. McClelland, Miss Anna
Blackie, and Nemo.

Palaver.

"Nemo" now conducts "Perplexi-
ties" in *The Youth's Delight*, of Fruit-
port, Mich.

In the result of the recent three
month's contest, which appeared in the
last issue, we failed to insert "Albu-
querque" in the list of contestants.
Our puzzle friend answered 17 correctly.

How to Form and Solve Puzzles.

By "INCOGNITO."

The art of puzzling is very easy and
simple as well as entertaining and in-
structive, when once its simple rudi-
ments have been mastered. But it is
necessary to pay very close attention to
the rules governing them in order to be-
come an expert. Puzzling not only brings
us into a closer relationship with spell-

ing, defining and reading; but into the
higher grade or arts of prose and poetry,
and cultivates a taste for moral litera-
ture.

I have not the space here to go into a
lengthy discourse on the subject, but
will merely touch a few important ones.
There are two classes of puzzles, first the
forms which take their name from any
desired shape or fashion; the second, are
the flats, which are verses containing
hidden meanings. We will commence
with the former, and begin on the dia-
mond. It must be of uneven numbers,
as 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13. The 5 letter
one being the smallest, mark out your
numbers for whatever size you intend to
build as thus:

S
A
S A L A D
A
D

then fill in the words, beginning with
the central down, then central across;
both ways must read the same. You can
solve them the same way. Next we
will take the square, the smallest being
of 4 letters, and so on up. Both ways
read the same, first top across, then from
top left down, as thus:

P A R T
A L O E
R O A N
T E N D

A half square is made by using only half
the letters, which is made thus:

P A I R
A N T
I T
R

A pyramid thus:

B
L A Y
B O R E D

In giving the definitions always follow
the rule of the diamond, top across then
down always on the left. Next we have
the Rhomboid which is little different
from the square as it reads two different
ways, but give the definitions the same,
as thus:

G A M E
N A P E
T I R E
C A N E

Next we have the Octagon which is very
hard at first but it is simply a diamond
with the points cut off, as thus:

T A B
L E P E R
T E M P L A R
A P P E A S E
B E L A T E D
R A S E D
R E D

(Continued next month).

CORRESPONDENCE CLUB.

This Department is established in response to numerous
requests from subscribers. All readers are invited to make
use of it, remembering the following rules: FIRST—Brevi-
ty. SECOND—Clearness of statement. THIRD—Decisive
knowledge of what is wanted. FOURTH—The desirability
of confining themselves, as much as possible, to questions
of interest to others as well as themselves. All questions
will be given attention as early as possible, although in
some cases more or less delay may be necessary.

A PRIZE OFFER.

"Don" writes: Please give short sketches of
the lives of R. M. Ballentyne and W. H. G.
Kingston. For the best sketch, in each instance,
sent by a subscriber, a prize of any one of our

"Best Books" will be given. Sketches limited
to 250 words, and must be received by July 10th.

SCIENTIFIC NAME OF BIRDS—THE A. O. U.

W. E. Dunnan.—(1). What is the scientific
name of birds? (2). Who is the President of
the American Ornithologists' Union? Where and
how often does it meet? How may a person be-
come a member?

(1). As Latin is the universal language of sci-
ence the "scientific" name of a bird is usually
two or more Latin words. The first of these is
known as the generic name and is a Latin sub-
stantive arbitrarily formed from some character,
real or supposed of the genus. The other part of
the name is usually called the specific name and is a
Latin adjective commonly founded on some dis-
tinctive character of the species. Sometimes the
specific name is derived from the country where it
was first found.

(2). The President of the A. O. U., is D. G.
Elliott. It meets once a year and its last meeting
was held at Washington, D. C. We think the
next will be held in New York. A person may
become an associate member by having his name
proposed by some active member at the annual
convention and paying \$3.00 per year for the A.
O. U. organ, a quarterly magazine, called *The
Auk*. The active membership is limited.

SOME OLD BOOKS.

A. L. L. I., writes: I have in my possession
several old books. Will you kindly tell me if
they are of any value. Are they common? Have
never seen other copies. One is "A Friend of
Peace and Solemn Review of the Customs of
War," by Philo Pacificus, Ballston Spa, Printed
and Published by J. Cumstock. Another: "A
Voyage to the Pacific," Published in England in
1825. Another: "Historical Compound,"
1825. A very old Note Book, "Songs of The
Temple," no date given. Date of publication of
the first book mentioned is 1822. I also have an
old leather-bound volume of Burns' published in
Edinburgh, Scotland.

Who can give the information asked for?

VARIOUS TOPICS.

R. B.—The 2-cent brown is worth 3 cents; the
2-cent black, 5 cents.

"Don."—There is no such word as "Eding-
cator." It was simply a combination of letters.

EXCHANGE NOTICES.

E. W. Morse, Eaton, Madison County, N. Y.—Has for
sale cheap, a 54 inch Columbia Bicycle, a "C" Clarinet,
a stamp collection, and a 38 caliber Stevens rifle, all in
good condition. Write for particulars.

R. W. Stearns, Sewall Ave., Brookline, Mass.—Has a
finely finished plunge battery cost \$2.50, and a Bublir
\$1.50 toy electric motor in exchange for a chemical ap-
paratus. Recipe for making chemical ink eraser 15 cents.
All letters answered.

Jesse McDonold, 249 E. Fremont St., Fostoria, Ohio.—I
will exchange stamps from sheets for anything of any
value, such as paintings, presses, cameras, typewriters,
mandolin, etc. 100 different foreign stamps for 15 cents.

D. G. French, Atherley, Ont.—125 var. stamps for a
dime or for 15 var. W. I. or S. A. stamps. Amateur and
philatelic papers please send me sample copies.

S. P. Seawell, P. M. Bensalem, Moore Co., N. C.—To
exchange, large lot of fine books, one old violin \$35. One
lot of medicines and drugs worth \$50. One genuine
"Mad tone" \$50. Lot of dry goods \$100. Want printing
material, gun and bicycle.

Frank Green, Galion, Ohio.—For sale a safety bicycle
high grade, also canvas canoe, will sell cheap for cash.

H. P. Simpson, Tuskaaloosa, Ala.—Stamp papers, old
rare, and recent, to exchange for stamps and coins. A
good \$5. folding camera for only \$3. A pound of stamp
literature, auction catalogue and old journals for 16c.

A. P. Wylie, Prairie Centre, Ill.—Three Confederate
bills for a good dime prior to 1860: A \$500. Confederate
bill for a half dollar of 1861. A fine Indian stone axe,
worth \$2. and a pair 1804 cents for best offers.

Capt. Wilson, Newport, Me.—A tricycle in good order,
and a handsome deer-head for sale cheap, or exchange
for a safety bicycle.

H. Tilney, Marysville, Kan.—A \$22. Magic Lantern
outfit \$15.00; a \$12. Velocipede Saw and designs, \$7. or will
exchange for best offers.

Clarence B. Ward, Huntington, N. Y.—Wanted: A
Lewis force pump, incubator, wire netting, safety bicycle
etc. in exchange for a violin, Flint-lock gun, new books
pig game, eggs, etc., cash.

C. E. Trilbitt, Thorntown, Boone Co., Indiana.—For
sale, or exchange for old U. S. coins, or fractional currency,
one \$8. & W. six shot revolver 44 cal. 8 inch barrel, fine
order \$8.00, cost \$15.00. One fine pair Elk horns on wal-
nut shield \$7.00, fine tritribles 25c each, or \$3.00 per doz.

L. A. Livingston, Davidsburgh, York Co., Pa.—Adven-
tures and Explorations of Henry M. Stanley in cloth
binding, retail price \$2.50, for \$2.00 postpaid, or will ex-
change for books by Optic, Ellis or Alger, or for the best
offer of anything useful.

Exchange and Sale Department.

Subscribers who pay \$1.00 per year have the privilege of this department free, subject to the following rules. To those not subscribers the charge is 1 cent per word per issue. Old subscribers who were on our books March 1, 1891, have the privilege of this department free to the close of 1891, regardless of the amount paid for subscription. It must be understood that we can take no responsibility concerning exchanges effected by means of this department, neither will the reliability of exchangers be guaranteed. To avoid any misunderstanding in the matter, it would be advisable for those contemplating exchanging to write for particulars to the addresses before sending the articles desired. Notices must be plainly and concisely written, following the general arrangement given below, and on one side of the paper only. Send as often as you please, but not more than one notice for single issue. Notices of more than 40 words not inserted. Notices are not repeated, i. e., a notice can have but one insertion. Exchange notices of revolvers, "trashy" novels, etc., not inserted. The publishers reserve the right to decline to insert any notice if they think best.

G. U. Dner, Millersburg, Ohio.—5 Arrowheads mailed for time dated before 1870. A stone mantel and five different kinds of wood, with 25 arrowheads sent by express on receipt of \$1.50.

A. C. Dean, Blyn, Clallam Co., Wash.—Has some ornamental evergreen trees (small) Cedar, Pine, Spruce, Hemlock, Fir and Rheododendron for 25 cents each, or three for 50 cents post paid, or exchange for Cinamon-vine, Sassafras or any novelty trees or flowers.

H. J. Douglass, Champlain, N. Y.—For sale 1858 proof dollar \$40.00; to exchange 1897 3 cent postage grilles 13 x 16. Millimetres catalogued at \$3.00 for rare U. S. coins or will pay difference for higher value.

Rouse, Hazard & Co., 151 Chest., Peoria, Ill.—Bicycles, all makes, ordinaries and safeties, new and second hand at lowest prices. We sell on easy payments without extra charge. Large illustrated catalogue free, also list of job lot wheels.

James L. Little, Goddard Avenue, Brookline, Mass.—Clumber Spaniel pups from imported pedigree stock for sale.—Finest disposition and most intelligent dogs raised. Can be trained to do anything as well as hunting. For prices and other information apply by letter.

E. P. Newcomer, 347 Fifth Ave., Cedar Rapids Iowa.—100 good foreign stamps for every 200 U. S. stamps sent me, any kind. Exchange desired with Philatelists.

R. W. Stearns, Seavall Ave., Brookline, Mass.—Has Experimental Electricity, First Latin Reader, Everybody's Handbook of Electricity and receipt for Chemical Ink Eraser, for sale or in exchange, will send recipe for every time date before 1880.

Chas. E. Taylor, Warren, Mass.—Has good B flat brass cornet worth \$12, will exchange for a good rifle or gun or some good piece of furniture.

Fred Bundy, Birdseye, Ind.—If you want to buy a lot of skulls, sweet gum burrs etc., send me your best prices.

F. C. Browne, Framingham, Mass.—Ornithology, conchology, numismatics. Correspondence desired with a view to exchanges.

G. W. Robinette, Flag Pond, Va.—Will exchange Crinoid Heads and Crinoid base, and natural tunnel fossils for dry goods in quantity, also Indian arrows and other relics. None but first class wanted or sent out by me.

Wanted to exchange for purely bred Rose Comb Brown Leghorns, 25 splendid game fowls, one stud bird, balance hens and Pullets, in fine feather and condition "Gwells" strain, cost owner over \$100, none but those having guaranteed thoroughbred Leghorns need answer. Address S., PLAIN TALK, Box 3259, N. Y.

G. E. Carpenter, Jr., 815 Union St., Pokeepsie, N. Y.—Solid silver watch cost \$16, 5 x 7 camera box reversible back single wing, value \$6, 4 draw telescope, cost \$4.50, Waterman Ideal Fountain Pen, cost \$3.50. Sell cheap.

W. L. Clarke, Box 228, Paris, Ky.—For sale Mastodon bronze Turkey eggs \$5 per 13, Brown Lechorns \$1.50 per 13, Indian game \$5 per 13, Plymouth Rock, \$2 per 13, also Newfoundland St. Bernard and English Mastiff pups.

Jas. S. McQueen, Alfordville, Robeson Co., N. C.—I will distribute circulars, show bills, etc., also act as agent for reliable firms. Have coin guide to exchange. Write to me.

James Snow, Kenyon, R. I.—Books wanted, The Young Smugglers of Lake Ontario, and Good for Nothing Dick. Who has them write me.

J. Mayo, 146 Erie Ave., Williamsport, Pa.—Set new boxing gloves, lot of papers, history of U. S. Mint and lot of other cloth bound books, for self-inking press or type, cuts, etc., or will pay cash if cheap.

Fred T. Igenfritz, Lock Box 26, Clarksville, Iowa.—Will exchange stamps with collectors, or exchange articles for stamps, send for list. Philatelic papers send sample copies. Stamp firms send lists.

Harry L. Igenfritz, Lock Box 472, Clarksville, Iowa.—A colored watch before 1700 for 1/2 dollar, lettered edge; a coin dated before 1800, for a 1/2 dollar before 1835. Good exchange for self-inking press not smaller than 5 x 8. U. S. coins wanted.

W. O. Evens Jr., Newburyport, Mass.—Wanted. A second hand printing press in good order, size about 7 x 11 (Gordon preferred) with or without outfit. Cheap for cash.

Walter Kepthor, Berrian Springs, Mich.—A 5 x 7 R. O. & Co., Camera and outfit, with Dario Lense, cost \$45. To exchange for Hammerless D. B. Shotgun.

For sale. Several sets of organ tuning tools with book of complete instruction. Easy to learn. Address B., Care PLAIN TALK, Box 3259, N. Y.

A. W. Whaler, Hanover, Pa.—Will sell cheap one pug bitch six months old, one house-dog bitch one year old.

W. S. Kinzer, W. oster, Ohio.—Winchester repeating rifle, 38 cal., 16 shot, first class condition only \$9. cash. Very fine imported shot gun for rare stamps. Cornet, guitar, and ten other musical instruments, and World Type-writer for stamps.

A GOOD BOOK IS THE BEST POSSIBLE COMPANION.

THE BEST BOOKS



This list of books has been prepared with great care, and an effort put forth to make such selections as will meet all tastes. The books are well printed and handsomely bound in cloth, with neat side stamps. They are regular 12mos, and the retail price of each is \$1.00. Every person to whose attention this list comes should improve the opportunity to add some of these desirable books to their libraries. Careful attention is asked to the following offers. If any points are not fully understood ask for information, always remembering to send stamp for reply.

FOR 60 CENTS ANY ONE OF THE BOOKS selected will be sent by mail, postage paid.
FOR \$1.00 WILL BE GIVEN A YEAR'S subscription to PLAIN TALK, and any desired book. This is a premium worth having.

A BOOK FREE TO ANY SUBSCRIBER who will send us two new subscriptions at 50 cents each. A few moments a day for a week or so would be all the time necessary to secure a good club.

BOOKS FOR THE ASKING! SEND TO US FOR a bundle of sample copies to show to your friends and start in with the resolve to secure at least a club of ten, so that you may have for your reward five of these desirable books. Remember the subscription price of PLAIN TALK is 50 cents a year, or with a choice of these books, postpaid, \$1.00 a year. For every two subscriptions, at either price, the sender provided he or she is a subscriber, may select any book desired as a premium.

SCHOOLS AND SOCIETIES MAY UNITE their forces and with very little effort secure valuable books for school or fraternity library. It would not require a large amount of work to procure 100 subscriptions, even in a small village, and the 50 premium books would be of great value. Every possible assistance will be given those who wish to engage in this work.

A CIRCULATING LIBRARY might even be established in this manner, and new books added from time to time, as opportunity offered. There are numberless ways in which these books can be used to advantage. Grand Army Posts, Sons of Veterans, Good Templars, W. C. T. U's, and kindred organizations, can find good use for a library, and no other method of obtaining one so easy as this.

PLAIN TALK IS MADE ESPECIALLY FOR bright boys and girls. Not the dull, sleepy ones but the wide-awake, active, pushing ones. The ones who want to know the why of things. The ones who mean to keep up with the thought and activity of the times. While made especially for young people, it is not a paper that can be read only behind the wood-pile, or the garret. It is emphatically a paper to be read at the fireside, and by the light of the family lamp. The fathers and mothers are interested in it, and look for its coming almost as eagerly as do the boys and girls. Its departments are in charge of special editors and a fund of reliable information is given each month. Its circulation is wide-spread, but its conductors are not satisfied and look for the addition of thousands of new names during the coming months.

- 1 Robinson Crusoe
- 2 Swiss Family Robinson
- 3 Arabian Nights
- 4 Pilgrim's Progress
- 5 Children of the Abbey
- 6 Scottish Chiefs
- 7 Thaddeus of Warsaw
- 8 Don Quixote
- 9 Last Days of Pompeii
- 10 Gulliver's Travels.
- 11 Aesop's Fables, 100 illustrations

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